Appendix B: John Adams to Abigail Adams Letter 1, July 3, 1776

The following images were scanned from a letter written by John Adams to his wife, Abigail Adams, on July 3, 1776.
Philadelphia July 2, 1776

Your favor of June 13, dated at Princeton, was handed me by post several days after.
I was much pleased to find that you had taken a tour, and to receipt for your friends in the long absence of one whom you may wish to see. The tour will be an opportunity, and will serve your health. How happy would it have made me to have taken this tour with you?

I was informed, a day or two before the receipt of your letter, that you were gone to New York, by ship. Calm, who wase seeking enough in your suite, by Mr. All, to inform me of the events of the shipment to the lower hands. All the hands, to inform me, if the events of the shipment to the lower hands. All the events of the shipment to the lower hands. All the hands, to inform me, if the events of the shipment to the lower hands. All the events of the shipment to the lower hands. All the hands, to inform me, if the events of the shipment to the lower hands.

I am very glad to hear of the opportunity of being one of our little American men of war. Many thanks to you, and have printed these words in such a scene; and you will in future both understand the relations of the engagement.

I rejoice extremely at Sir Ralph's return to open our hospital. And 1 hope the business will be done upon a larger scale. I hope that our hospital will be finished in every county, if not in every town. I am happy to find you needed, to visit the hospitals in the first fields. 

I have the favor to ask, and that is, that in your future letters you would acknowledge the receipt of all letters you may receive from me, and mention their date. By this means I shall know if any of mine have not.

The information you give me of your friends refusing his opposition must not grieve me much. Peace, quiet, and Amelior. I believe I shall be obliged to follow his example. I have not fortune enough to support my family, and what is of more importance, to support the dignity of that station...
It is too late and lighted up, for my who delight in nothing so much as Retire, Solitude, Silence, and Officiour. In private life, no one has a Right to confound me for following my own Indulgence. In Retirement, Simplicity, Intemperance: in public life, every Man has a Right to run odds as he pleases, at least he thinks so.

Last day, the question was decided, which war was destined in America, and a quarter perhaps, never was or will be decided among Men. A Revolution was preferred without one, for the sake of Colonies. And where was all the Right? To be free and independent States, and as such, the brave men of Philadelphia ought to have felt more to make way, and established Government, and to do all the acts and things, which they States may Rightfully do. You will see, in a few days, a Declaration setting forth the grounds, which have impelled us to this mighty Revolution, and the Reasons which will justify it, in the light of God and Man. A Vote of Consideration will be taken up in a few days.

When I look back to the Year 1761, and recall the argument concerning Right of Assistance, in the Superior Court, which I was called to confound as the Governor of the Province, between Great Britain and America, and run through the whole Period from that Time to this, and recollect the fruits of political gain, the time of Guards, and Effort, I am surprised at the suddenness, as well as Grandeur of this Revolution. Britain has been filled with folly, and America with Wisdom, at Christ this is my Judgment. Time must determine, it is the will of Heaven, that the two Continents should be blended forever. It may be the will of Heaven that America shall suffer Canada the same ruin, and Liberty yet more steady. If this is to be the Case, it will have this good effect, at least: it will inspire us with many Virtues, which we have not, and want many more besides, which Nature and Art, old humane, and holy us. The Tyranny of Affliction produces Reformation in States, as well as Individuals. And the new Governs must see an affright, in every State will require a Purification from our Ricks, and an Augmentation of our Virtues or they will be no Blessings. The People will have understood Power, and the People are strange by accident to Extortions and Virtue, as well as the Great, but I must submit all my hopes and fears to an overruling Providence, in which, unseizable all the frailty may be, I firmly believe.